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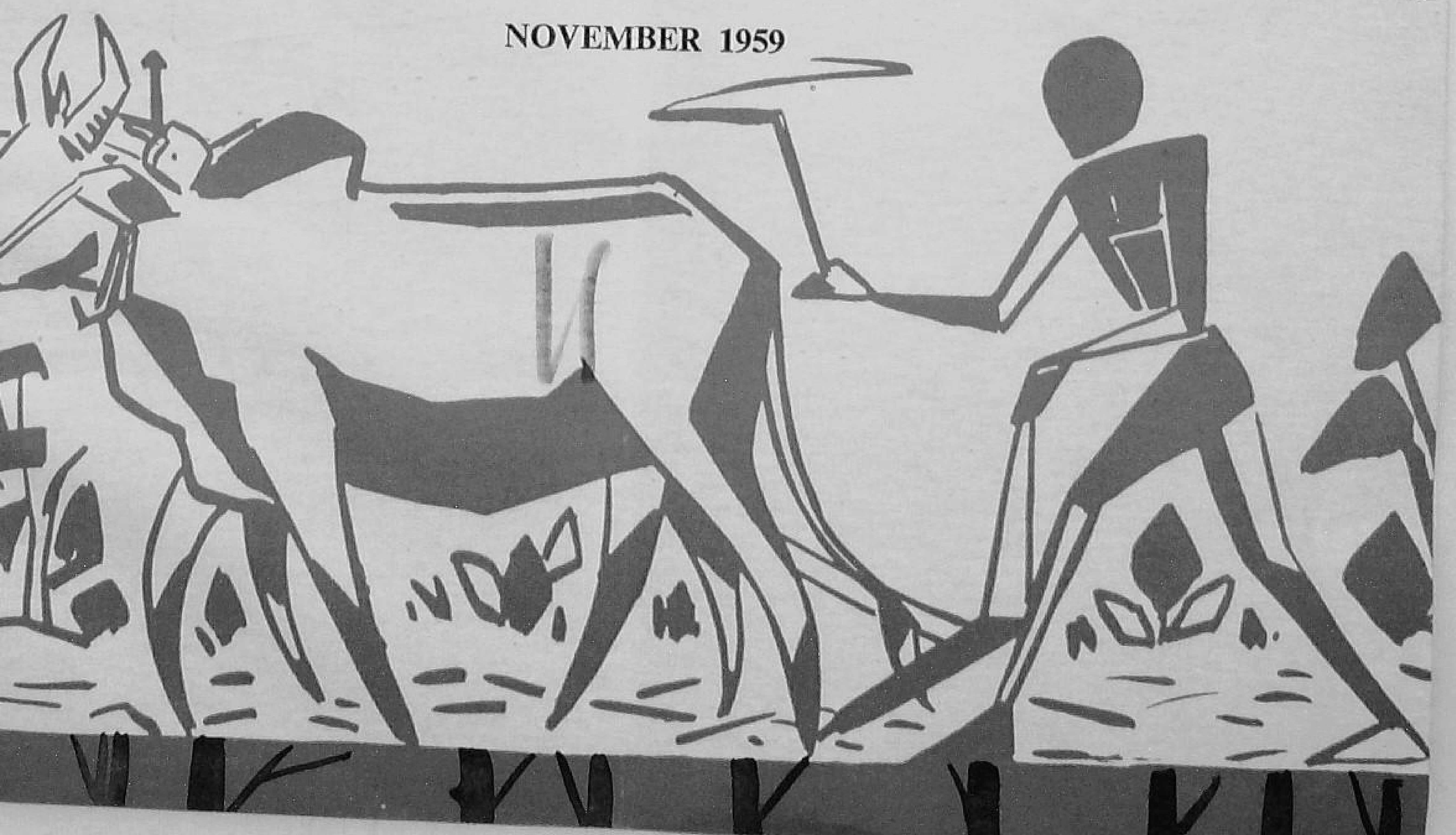

"Union is strength"

मज़दूर मंज़िल
ग्राम सेवक

GRAM SEVAK

Kartika-Agrahayana 1881
Vol. 6 NOVEMBER 1959 No. 4

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BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 nP.
Annual : Rs. 1.25

All enquiries regarding agency and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-8. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Gram Sevak*, Ministry of Community Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Seven Years of Pilgrimage

S. K. DEY

(*Continued from the last issue*)

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS, the Panchayat Samitis and the Zila Parishad will mean extension of manpower resources at the disposal of the people. Needs and demands of people for supplies and services out of themselves and their elected institutions will continue to outstrip resources in materials and leadership. The demands and services will grow increasingly out of step. The need arises therefore for supplementary voluntary organisations. "Associate institutions", they are called. The Associate institutions will be the Yuvak Mandal, the Bal Mandal, the Mahila Mandal, the Dastkar Mandal and the multitude of other institutions as will grow with the deepening of life in the countryside. The members of these Associate organisations can be co-opted as members of the functional sub-committees in representative institutions at the Village, Block and District levels. The Associate institutions will grow in depth, width and height as time passes. They will supplement the efforts of our representatives and the specialists in administration with the specialised skill innate in our people. They will act as deterrents to abnormalities in representative institutions and be affected so in turn.

EDUCATION—THE MASTER KEY

Mere manpower cannot be an asset to a nation. We know it to our cost in India. Mere institutions of people—representative or associate—can be no asset either. For, these may grow easily into dead weight adding to the tax burden on the people. A programme for education and training has, therefore, to be organised *en masse* all along the line. Institutions of Government from the apex to the base hitherto meant for officials, can assuredly be used for the training of people's representatives and select people's associates. There should alongside be mass scale programme of education also of the people. An ignorant people and enlightened representatives are either myths or uneasy partners. Powerful administration and a powerless people offer fertile ground for the devil. Powers cannot be given. Powers have to be taken. Those who hold the title to power have to be mobilised through education and discipline. This programme cannot be conducted merely from above, nor at the initiative of government alone. Every institution and every group of people will have to play its part in the education and discipline of the group immediately below. A programme on this pattern has been chalked out almost to a precision. In this the members of our Parliament, the State Legislatures and the Social Welfare institutions in the country have all, the most vital role yet to play.

THE FINAL PICTURE

Thus the final picture emerges. The people of India will govern themselves through their representatives in institutions from the Panchayat to the Parliament. There will be functional sub-committees in every institution looking after individual subjects of development. The functional sub-committees will consist of members of representative institutions and coopted members from the Associate organisations. The village co-operatives, the Associate institutions and their formations higher up will undertake responsibility for development in all sectors of life. People would be involved and mobilised by each one of the functional sub-committees. The permanent administration of Government will be there to serve the needs of the people at the behest of their representatives. Representatives and associates will supplement each other. They will act and react on each other against unhealthy trends. The village, the Block, and the District will acquire new importance as units for planning and development. Scope for political or official patronage will diminish enormously, if not be eliminated altogether. There will be greater vigilance at all levels. Officials will no longer function alone. Team work will act as a corrective to anti-social trends in individuals.

The concept of integrated growth of the village as a community will be the dominant factor. The dynamic elements in village today dissipate themselves in centrifugal or subterranean pulls and fissures. The new system of administration with its elaborate programme of education and discipline will give these a centripetal direction. Bapu had dreamt of new India as the federation of villages, each village constituting a growing joint family. The villages were to produce the bulk of the needs for day to day living. These were to be sufficient in sanitation, communications, housing, health of the people, food for men and animals, clothing and shelter against the weather, sports, music and drama for recreation and village institutions of justice and reformation for the anti-social elements in the family. Every member in the community was to be the supreme master of himself in the dance of the cosmos.

NO SHORT-CUT

Community Development is no Alladin's Lamp. Community Development agency can act the attorney of the people. It cannot be the substitute for the administration as a whole in a democracy. How then is the child to survive, and will he? The prognosis is an affirmative one judging historically. The logic, however, demands that people should understand the contradictions that are yet to be resolved if journey in the direction of "Destination Man" is to begin. Democracy demands that we abjure methods of violence for conversion of others to our line of thinking. The "few" on joy ride have to get off the shoulders of the "many". The administrative and political rackets which nourish and perpetuate blasphemies have to be eliminated. Amputation, as a method, is precluded. The process then has to be an enlightened public opinion. "Socialist pattern" and "unwillingness to face logic" are uneasy concepts for co-existence. Which is the agency to work out the extension of this understanding? What are the forces in the country today which will support the Community Development agency in its thankless effort of today? Who will pull the agency up with sympathy and understanding, when it tends to succumb to local forces of gravitation?

A Mansion can be built overnight with stone, cement and mortar subject only to the requisite skill and organisation. A single leaf in a plant cannot be made to sprout, with all the skill in the world, except in conformity with its own organic law of growth. Happily, Man in India continues still a living organism, a very complex one, despite all the vicissitudes of centuries. The organism refuses to relent to overfast efforts. The organism has to be readapted to the "World of tomorrow". Yesterday was bypassed through slumber. "Today" is enveloped in hypnotism. If growth is to be real, adequate allowances have to be made for organic adjustments. Process can certainly be accelerated if there is honesty. Honesty has to be supported by devotion, purpose and the requisite skill. The pilgrimage is seven years young. There is long road ahead. The direction is right. A giant is on the move. The speed of the journey will be determined by the push from behind and the pull from ahead. Short cut will be fatal.

THERE IS NO SHORT CUT

The Unreported Revolution

BY YUDHISHTAR

A WELL-KNOWN publicist recently referred to an "unreported revolution". The revolution took place on October 2, 1959 in Rajasthan. This is the first State to cover its entire area with the new pattern of decentralised administration. A good beginning has been made. The services of 2,000 State Government employees were transferred on that day to 232 Panchayat Samitis and 26 Zila Parishads. A new Service, known as Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad Service, has been constituted. It consists of village level workers (men and women), primary school teachers, field men, staff men, vaccinators and the Ministerial staff. The State Government has the right to encadre in the new Service any other category or grade of officers. The primary school teachers form the biggest chunk, numbering about 11,000 and their services are now placed under the Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads. The senior categories of staff now transferred to them are: (1) Secretaries of Zila Parishads who will be drawn from Rajasthan Administrative Service (26); (2) Vikas Adhikaris who will be junior RAS officers (232); (3) Agricultural assistants; (4) Extension officers; (5) Village level workers; and (6) Ministerial staff. The entire personnel has been drawn from 12 different State Departments. This is the new pattern which Rajasthan has brought into being on October 2, 1959. This will be the new base on which the edifice of decentralised administration will be built. Here is the beginning of an "unreported revolution" which the other States in this country should be eager to understand and profit from.

Another State in which things are moving equally fast is Andhra Pradesh. On November 1, 1959 the anniversary of inauguration of Andhra Pradesh, 234 Panchayat Samitis were inaugurated. Twenty Zila Parishads, one for each District would start functioning from December 1, this year. The State has been delimited into 447 Panchayat Samiti Blocks. Of these 234 Blocks would have full-fledged Panchayat Samitis as the programme had already been in operation and had reached either Stage I or Stage II. In 39 pre-Extension Blocks preliminary survey is in progress. In the remaining Blocks, the programme is yet to be commenced and completed before October 2, 1963. Though the pre-Extension Blocks and the non-Block areas would be without their Panchayat Samitis for some time, they are entitled to send one representative each to the Zila Parishad. Elections to nearly 14,000 Panchayats are under way. Andhra Pradesh has already had a number of pilot Panchayat Samitis.

OVERDUE

Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are thus having a fore-taste of the new pattern of local administration which the Community Development programme has helped to bring about. They represent in a large measure the shape of things to come in the other parts of the country. Every State is going ahead with its plans for bringing about this change-over as swiftly as possible. While conforming to the general pattern, each State will have to reckon with local conditions, the educational level of its people and the legacy of its past. Conditions vary so vastly from State to State that the progress of this

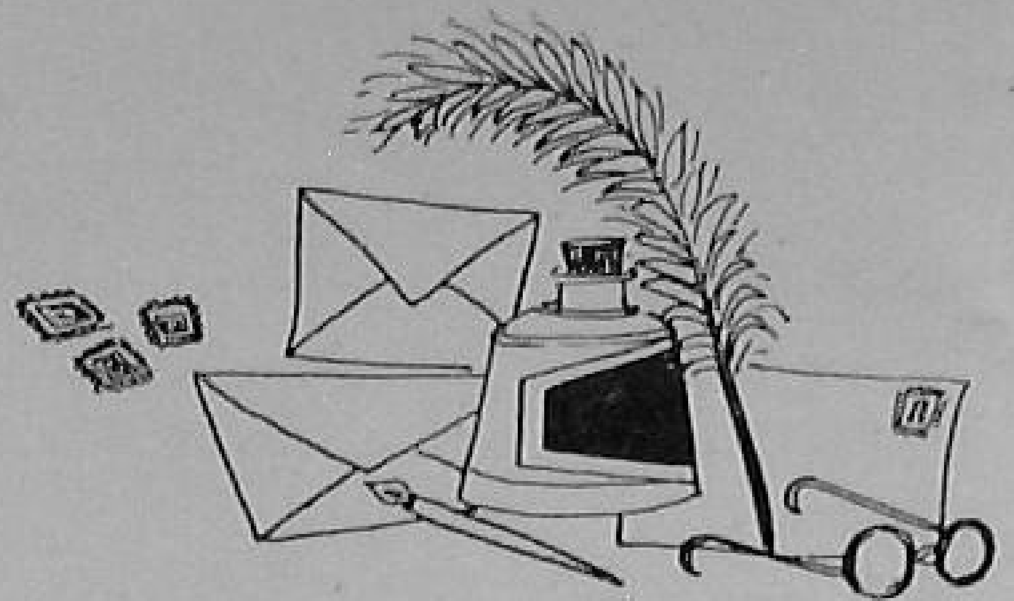
great movement towards democratic decentralisation is bound to be uneven. But there is no reason why a beginning in right earnest, as has been made in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, should not be made in other States. Such a beginning is overdue.

WANTED : MEN OF CHARACTER

I do not for a moment suggest that creation of new cadres of development workers could bring about a revolution. No church had been able to found a new religion; at best it has attempted at propagating new dogmas. But every church has its evangelists. They carry the message in their own conscience. We have thousands of trained workers in the field throughout the country. A huge training programme is being implemented to give these workers, officials and non-officials, the necessary orientation. But how many of them feel adequate to the job in hand? The training programme may turn them into efficient extension agents. But the need of the hour is not merely efficient workers. "We, no doubt, require," said President Rajendra Prasad recently, "doctors and engineers but the prime need is of having men in the true sense of the term. During the past 12 years there has been a deterioration in the character of the people of this country and I have no hesitation in saying that I am no exception to it. Unless we have great men of character, we cannot rise above our neighbours. There are few such men now. The present confusion can be overcome only by producing men of character." The revolution which we wish to usher in can only be brought about by men of character whose standard of integrity will not be affected by the surrounding gloom.

The recent developments in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have already set in motion new forces. Some of these which have emerged from the ground have speeded up the pace of the programme. People of Rajasthan have begun to ask for new amenities and are learning to make the best use of the new institutions set up in their midst. How long can this enthusiasm last? asks a critic. Are the Sarpanches properly equipped to provide the necessary leadership to our villagers? Is the Government prepared to meet the new demands of people who in their first flush of enthusiasm, are bound to ask for the impossible? Has the Panchayat organisation gained sufficient experience so that their activities may be co-ordinated effectively at the Panchayat Samiti level? Can the Vikas Adhikaris or the B.D.Os successfully work under two masters? Can this development work be kept free from politics? Has the Panchayat grown sufficiently to undertake development work? All these questions would keep arising constantly and they will have to be understood and resolved. Such doubts and questions will continue to plague a nation-wide programme designed to be worked out by the people themselves. I expect a huge upsurge of critical feeling in the wake of this new movement towards a decentralised form of democracy.

The doubts and questions are not new. A number of Study Teams and Commissions have been enquiring into these since the inception of the programme and the new experiment is the result of seven years of struggle and conflict. Our people should be allowed to make their own mistakes. Though their level of literacy may not be very high, their basic urge for community living has been proved throughout the ages. Our men and women have not lost their enthusiasm for community life. The decentralised form of democracy which we are now introducing is the same old wine in a new bottle. Our people understand this much better than the intellectuals who are discussing it in the rarified atmosphere of their drawing rooms. No wonder it had to be an unreported revolution!



EDITOR'S POST BOX

S. N. Sharma, Lucknow: Under the scheme of 'Decentralisation', new powers are to be vested in the Panchayats to carry on the developmental activities. Do you think this experiment will succeed in view of the fact that there is too much of party faction in the villages?

Answer: Decentralisation of power is consistent with the spirit of our present Constitution and past history. It is indeed true, that like all new undertakings, this too involves some risks. But to argue that the right path should be given up because of the besetting difficulties is a counsel of despair. If our programme is to be regarded as essentially a People's movement, it should involve the people at all levels. Panchayat elections, if carried out unanimously, are to be welcomed and encouraged. But in practice such unanimous elections will be few and far between. We should not take an unduly alarmist view if the elections are fought on party basis. The parliamentary form of democracy presupposes elections on party basis. Our villagers will be initiated and trained in the process. Party factions based on caste or religion are undesirable and should be discouraged. But group alignments on the basis of political philosophies stand on a different footing and need not be harmful. The elections on a party basis will provide the much-needed forum for the villagers to compete with each other in the service of the village community rather than waste their energies in trying to run down each other.

Ours is an educational programme which touches intimately the lives of the people. The responsibility for its working is now being gradually shifted to the shoulders of the people themselves. The people who are now to run it will be no better or no worse than the service men who have been running it so far. It is a great responsibility with which the people are now being entrusted at the village, block and district level. Upon their enthusiasm and energy, no less than the loyalty and efficiency of the service men will the success of the programme depend. The difference between, the official and the non-official will become more academic and less real. The service men will have to adjust themselves to a new role in which the people's predilections will have to be given as much weight as one's own personal preferences.

Sushil Kumar, Amritsar: Conditions differ so widely in different parts of our subcontinent that almost every block is different from every other block. Under these circumstances, to prescribe a uniform pattern of programme and personnel for the C.D. blocks will be like offering them a Procrustean bed. What is your solution?

Answer: True, conditions differ greatly from block to block. But the laying down of a broad pattern of activities and administrative personnel is essential to serve as a model for guidance. The States are expected to conform to the general outline of the pattern so that the exchange of views and experience and the evaluation of results at the national level are facilitated. Within the broad framework, the States have complete freedom to work out a system of organisation, programme and personnel as suits their local conditions. Thus, for example, different States have evolved different techniques to achieve administrative coordination between the various departments functioning in the Block. Conditions of service and the standard of educational qualifications laid down for B.D.Os and their manner of recruitment differ

from State to State. Similarly in following the programme activities, though food production has been given top priority everywhere, the States are free to take up any other activity in the order of priority of 'felt-needs' of the locality.

P. Balasubrahmanyan, Kurnool: Compost making is an accepted beneficial practice recognised by the farmers. In spite of this recognition, the practice has not become popular. Often the rural worker is baffled by this paradox. Has the work of decades of propaganda by State Agricultural Departments and five years of intensive work of the block personnel all been in vain? Can you suggest a solution for this?

Answer: Propaganda alone can never do the trick. It is only when a cheap alternative fuel for domestic purposes is made available in the countryside, there will be proper incentive to the production of compost manure on a large scale. Soft coke could be a cheap and convenient substitute to serve as fuel. This will however, involve huge transportation problems which may defy solution for some time to come in view of the already tight rail-road transport position. The second alternative of course is that it should be made obligatory on the village Panchayats to undertake afforestation programmes in parts of the village common lands so that the village community is self-sufficient in its fuel requirements. The latter course seems to be a more desirable and practicable solution of this vital problem.

Madan Lal, Delhi: Are the results obtained from the programme of Community Development commensurate with the money spent on it during the last seven years?

Answer: If one was asked to find a large-scale continuation of Gandhiji's Constructive work, it will be difficult to find a more comprehensive programme on a national scale than the one relating to the Community Development. The money spent on the programme during the last seven years is estimated at Rs 137 crore exclusive of people's contribution in the form of cash, kind and labour which is well over half the amount of Government expenditure. Looking at it purely in financial terms, the total money spent and the effort involved, would appear to be insignificant for an under-developed country of our size and complexity. Admittedly the results have been no less psychological than physical. In assessing the impact of the programme, one cannot always go by evaluation reports which are slanted towards physical achievements. It is also necessary to remember that Community Development cannot make much progress in the absence of radical land reform and provision of subsidiary employment in the form of cottage and small industries.

J. P. Chakravarti, Howrah: Is it necessary for the Community Development Ministry to set up a nine-man Study Team on Pilot Projects for industries when the Programme Evaluation Organisation has already published its report on the same subject?

Answer: The terms of reference of the Study Team and the PEO are different in scope and outlook. The study of PEO was confined only to three aspects, namely (1) Training Programme, (2) Loans Programme and (3) Industrial Cooperative Societies. The Pilot Project programme was conceived in two stages: (i) an immediate programme based on the programmes of the various boards and (ii) a survey of the area. The PEO's Report covers the first phase only, whereas the Study Team has to cover a wider field and will deal with the second stage, *i.e.*, long-range programme. The Team will analyse the causes of bottlenecks holding up the programme and recommend measures to accelerate the pace of development of village and small scale industries in the Blocks.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

Shriman Narayan

It is wrong to think that the idea of co-operative joint farming has suddenly been thrust on the nation. It is, perhaps, not adequately realised that the programme of co-operative farming was mentioned in the First Five-Year Plan and it forms an important part of the Second Five-Year Plan in the scheme of rural organisation.

It should be clearly understood that co-operative joint farming is fundamentally different from collective farming, as practised in the totalitarian countries. Firstly, co-operative farming is, in the very nature of things entirely voluntary and optional, whereas collective farming is necessarily compulsory, although it may appear democratic on paper.

Secondly, co-operative farms, as visualised in Indian planning, should range from 50 acres to 100 or 200 acres, while the collective farms in totalitarian countries range from 5,000 acres to 40 or 50 thousand acres. It is quite natural that on account of the big size of these collective farms, the farmers tend to lose their individuality and become cogs in a huge machine.

Thirdly, large-scale mechanisation is an essential part of the collective farms whereas the co-operative farms in India need not resort to excessive mechanisation. In our country, owing to pressure of population, what is necessary is intensive farming and not extensive and mechanised farming.

ADVANTAGES

It is obvious that co-operative farming will be practised by agriculturists in India only if they are able to see certain obvious advantages in its adoption. There are at least ten economic advantages in following the programme of co-operative joint farming.

1. There will be a more rational use of animal and human labour through co-operative endeavour.

2. It would be possible to step up capital formation by pooling all resources for effecting improvements in agriculture, particularly irrigation and improved implements.

3. The farmers will be able to afford fuller use of scientific techniques in agriculture, like the Japanese method of rice cultivation, improved strains of seeds, green and compost manuring, insecticides, etc.

4. Elimination of economic exploitation by Middlemen could be achieved through co-operative marketing of the farm produce.

5. There will be emergence of local and community leadership through co-operative planning of village life.

6. This higher form of economic organisation will be able to absorb a good number of educated young men within the village and thus prevent their migration to the cities.

7. Small and poor farmers, who are regarded as non-credit-worthy today, will be able to receive adequate credit and other facilities by joining a co-operative farm.

8. Joint farming will make for a richer and diversified village economy by the establishment of different village and processing industries to supplement agriculture.

9. The Government will be able to distribute various supplies and provide technical knowledge in a more systematic and efficient manner to co-operative farmers, rather than to a large number of individual farmers.

Collection of agricultural statistics will also be much more reliable and scientific.

10. Better agricultural planning through co-operative farming will release more time to both men and women of the village for social and cultural activities.

These ten-fold advantages of co-operative farming should be carefully explained to the Indian agriculturists, so that they may feel attracted towards co-operative farms out of their own free will.

SERVICE CO-OPERATIVES

As has been repeatedly emphasized by the Prime Minister, our main emphasis should be on the establishment of

(*Continued on page* 10)

FARMER'S SEED FARM

C. Ramakrishna Pillai

JUST A fifteen-minute jeep ride from Trivandrum is enough to reach the Kazhakuttam Block. Though situated close to the colourful capital city, you can enjoy there the picturesque sights of the typical rural Kerala.

Here the mainstay of the people as elsewhere in the State is farming. Every inch of land that can be brought under cultivation is occupied by one crop or other. So in this densely populated area it is needless to say, intensive cultivation is the only way to increase agricultural production.

Paddy is the main crop of the block area and popularising quality seeds is the most 'suited short cut' to enhance the yield. The initial studies by the block team revealed that improved varieties of paddy seeds are unknown and unheard of in the area. To many the talk of the improved seeds was big news! Most of them refused to believe that by using improved seeds alone they can raise the yield by 15%. This was the position in 1956.

CHANGED SCENE

Today you will see an entirely different scene. The superiority of the improved seed is well-known to most of the paddy farmers. Now an enquiry about improved seed is enough to spread a smile of success in their face. The demand for the improved seeds is on the increase. The need for good seed led them to formulate a plan to attain block-wise self-sufficiency in the production of improved paddy seeds. Here is the inspiring story of a Farmers' Club which succeeded in achieving this cherished goal by hard and persistent work.

NEW SEED

It happened in 1956. As the first step to find the suitable improved seed for the area, the block started a few experimental trials. The new seed they tried was U.R. 19, the famous seed for the Rabi season in the sandy tracts of central Travancore. In the control plots laid just by the side of the experimental fields they cultivated the best local strains to have a comparative study. Both received the same amount of care. The trial continued for two seasons. Only very few watched this when it commenced. But the performances of the improved seed won many admirers. Thus the new seed found a prominent place not only in the paddy fields but in the hearts of paddy-growers too!

NEW PROBLEMS

Today it can be claimed without any fear of contradiction that U.R. 19 is the best paddy seed suited for the sandy tracts of the block area. No introduction is needed in the matter. It is a fact. The highlight of this was the harvesting of a bumper crop with the new seed in an experimental plot. This established the superiority of the U.R. 19 over all other local varieties. Naturally the name of the new seed which gave a better crop became very dear and near to the hearts of every paddy-grower. This led to a sudden increase in the demand. Then only the block authorities realised that the early success can bring in not only fame but many new problems. To share the fruits of the new achievement with more farmers, it was necessary to make immediate arrangements for the large-scale production and distribution of the seed.

It is difficult to convince our farmers about a new thing. But once you succeed in the attempt it will have lasting results. The peasants are convinced about the performance of the new seed, and they want it. But someone should make the supply. Who can produce the seeds? The Farmers' Club of one Panchayat rose to the occasion and decided to try a new experiment. They came forward to start a seed farm of their own. The idea was novel and attractive. But to achieve a victory in this effort was a very risky task. They were determined to face everything. The Club launched a planned drive to achieve their goal. As the first step they arranged ward meetings of the farmers where representatives of the block explained the idea, its working and the possible achievement of the scheme in detail.

PEOPLE'S OWN EFFORT

Interest evinced by the farmers caused surprise even to

the sponsors. It was so inspiring. Donations came from peasants in kind and cash. They never asked the block authorities for aid. But the assistance offered by the block was received with respect and gratitude. They took one acre paddy land on lease from a farmer and decided to pay the lease in cash. The area may seem small to many but even the State paddy seed farms of Kerala are only 8 acre plots. The Block office collected all the gifts received in the form of farmyard manure, green manure, wood ash, etc. and brought it to the field. The seed also was a contribution from the block.

In the nursery the healthy seedlings grew up. By the time it ripened for transplantation, the field was also got ready. The Agricultural Minister of Kerala inaugurated the transplanting ceremony of this first "Farmer's Own Seed Farm of the State". Members of the club took parental care of the crop. The green growth of the crop was so attractive that it won the the appreciation of many peasants who formerly had no interest in the scheme. It was a feast to the eyes, ears and heart to observe the grain-filled ear-heads dancing in the fields. The club members as well as the farmers looked at the crop with pride and joy.

BETTER SEED AT CHEAP PRICE

The club decided to distribute only the best seeds. The first preference in the distribution was, of course, for the

(*Continued on page* 12)

AVARD

THE SECOND MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development was held recently in New Delhi. Shri Jayaprakash Narayan and Shrimati Raksha Saran, President, All-India Women's Conference, also participated in the meeting as special invitees.

The meeting discussed various questions concerning rural development, particularly problems relating to Panchayats, the Government's proposed scheme of national service for students and the supplementary credit programme, and the holding of a seminar by the Association.

The Executive Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to study the scheme of national service for youth prepared by the Ministry of Education, Government of India and the working of similar programmes in other countries, particularly in Yugoslavia and Israel. The Sub-Committee is headed by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan and includes Shri Annasaheb Sahasrabudhe, Professor N. D. Godbole of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Shri Shaligram Pathik of the Mass Education Society, and the General Secretary of the Association, Shri Dharampal.

Regarding the formulation of a programme of national service for the youth in India, Shri Jayaprakash Narayan observed that nearly ten years ago he had made a suggestion that all students after Matriculation and every Matriculate youth should undergo one year's national service training. He further felt that such a scheme in this country should imply both service as well as training, so that the youth are trained in useful socio-economic activities.

The Executive Committee decided that the Association should undertake research studies. The first two studies to be undertaken are :

1. Research and investigation into the causes of prevailing inertia, particularly amongst the rural population of India.

2. A study of the traditional forms of co-operation which existed in various parts of the country; and how best these could be reviewed and adopted in the present conditions leading to the growth of a sound and live co-operative movement.

At this meeting it was decided to convene a seminar, sometime in January 1960, to discuss various problems on "Approaches to Rural Development". The seminar is expected to last four to five days.

The Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD) was formed last year with the support of well-known voluntary organisations engaged in rural development in the country. Today, it has a membership of over 30 such organisations, including several Rural Institutes and training institutions.

THE EXTENSION WORKER

N. S. Garewal

THE SUCCESS of our community development work mostly depends on the extension worker. He should love the countryside, the smell of the soil, the touch of the rain, the smile of the sun, the kiss of the winds, the song of the birds and the laughter of the summer breeze in the trees. He should love the growing crops, rustle of the corn, the golden billow of the ripening wheat and the fleecy cotton bursting from the ball. He should understand god's creatures, great and small, that cater to man's needs; the friendship of the horse, the confidence of the sheep; the gentleness of the cow and buffaloes; the contented confidence of the fattening swine and the endurance of the bullock and the camel.

Because of this love, he should believe in the open country and the life of country people; in their hopes, their aspirations and their simple faith; in their ability and power to enlarge their own lives and plans for the happiness of those that they love. He should also believe in the farmer as the nations' sure defence, the reservoir of its prosperity, its haven of security from those who could despoil it from within or without.

He should also believe in the farmer's right to a comfortable living; in his duty to co-operate with his neighbours, in the sacredness of the farmer's home; in the holiness of the country woman's love and the opportunity that home should assure to culture, grace and power. He should be able to convince the country boy and girl to long for opportunity; to have healthy bodies and clean hearts and to attend to the country's call and claim to their service. He should believe in his own work; the opportunity it offers to be helpful; in its touch of human sympathy and its joy of common fellowship.

He should believe in himself; in sincerity of purpose he offers to work with his country man, woman and child in making the farm prosperous, the country home comfortable and beautiful, the rural community satisfying and his own life useful.

He should be clear about what he wants to communicate, whom to communicate, when to communicate and how to communicate. He should be able to put action in the minds of people by the spoken word, the written word, the visual aids, demonstrations or combination of these forms. He should believe in "Method" demonstrations or "result" demonstrations as being the most effective tools of teaching. He should appreciate the necessity of "speaking the same language" or transmitting information in terms that are understood by all persons concerned.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

(Continued from Page 7)

Service Co-operatives throughout the country within the next two or three years. It is expected that the farmers will realise the practical advantages of co-operation in the field of agriculture and would start joint farms out of their own accord.

There should be no attempt on the part of social or political workers to force the pace of co-operative farming in the country. There should be much greater emphasis on quality, rather than on mere quantity and numbers.

The formation of bogus farms mainly for evading land reforms and securing Government financial assistance should be effectively discouraged. The existing co-operative farms, which are not functioning successfully, should be liquidated as early as possible.

Above all, the success of co-operative farming in India would depend upon the honesty and efficiency of social and political workers who assist and guide the farmers in forming these co-operative farming units in various parts of the country. Co-operation is essentially a way of life and only those who have implicit faith in it can persuade others to take to it.

BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ

The Bharat Sevak Samaj is a people's movement to supplement Government help and efforts in building a New India. The Samaj works on a non-political basis and provides opportunities for useful activities to large numbers of people. It encourages the people's initiative and elicits public co-operation for the developmental activities under the Five Year Plans.

The B.S.S. is at present functioning through 28 Pradesh, 11 Regional, 250 District and numerous other subordinate units throughout the country. With the help of these branches, the B.S.S. is carrying out its varied activities, a brief description of which is given below :

PUBLIC CO-OPERATION

The pattern of people's participation by way of *Shramdan* has led to considerable success in many projects. The Central Construction Service, which looks after this scheme, took up the Kosi project in Bihar for its first experiment. The Government have so far saved over Rs. 1 crore on this project by way of lower rates of wages accepted by the workers of the B.S.S. The target of construction by the Central Construction Service and the other Regional and Pradesh units for 1959-60 is Rs. 10 crores.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS

The basic idea of this scheme is to stimulate the enthusiasm of the people by contributing their share either in cash, kind or free voluntary labour up to the extent of 50% in the execution of local development works. The balance of 50% of the cost of a scheme up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 is to be met by the Planning Commission. These works include provision for drinking water, permanent works for improvement of agriculture and rural sanitation, and construction of village roads, schools, dispensaries, godowns, etc. A sum of Rs. 15 crores was provided for these schemes in the First Plan and an equal sum has been allotted for the Second Plan.

SOCIAL WELFARE

This section of the B.S.S. is concerned with all the welfare programmes sponsored by the Central Social Welfare Board (C.S.W.B.) and also with the women and child-welfare programmes. In the year 1958, two All-India, Major Urban Community Development Programmes sponsored by the C.S.W.B. were entrusted to this section for implementation. The C.S.W.B. also agreed to allot 21 Pilot Welfare Extension Projects (P.W.E.P.) to the B.S.S. Each P.W.E.P will establish a full-fledged Urban Community Welfare Centre to cater to the needs of about 500 families or 2,500 people. The C.S.W.B. has undertaken to give a grant up to Rs. 25,000 for each P.W.E.P. for the remaining years of the Second Plan. Out of the 15 schemes sanctioned, 14 have already started functioning. One hundred night shelters are also being opened throughout the country. So far schemes for 28 such centres have been sanctioned by the C.S.W.B.

The other activities of this section include opening of Adult Education Centres, free Milk Distribution Centres, Tailoring and Craft Centres for Women, Maternity Centres and Ambar Charkha Training Centres. The message of self-help and co-operative endeavour is conveyed by the Samaj through popular publications, exhibitions and a regular monthly journal 'Bharat Sevak'. In addition, *Pracharaks* of the Samaj visit villages and address public meetings, arrange cultural shows and Kavi Sammelans, etc.

BHARAT YUVAK SAMAJ

This is a link-up with various youth organisations in the country. At the end of 1956, 16 Pradeshes had units of B.Y.S. During 1957, 97 new units were organised, and against the target of 1,00,000 members, the membership figure rose to 1,60,000. Among its various activities, mention may be made of emergency relief, particularly during floods, which the B.Y.S. has from time to time rendered in Delhi, Bihar, Bengal and Assam.

This unit also maintains liaison with international organisations like the World Assembly of Youth. During the last few years, youth delegations from Malaya,

U.S.S.R., China, Japan, Viet Nam and Nepal visited its Central Office. Besides a team of 10 'observers' sent to Moscow and Kiev, the B.Y.S. also sent a delegation to Ceylon.

BHARAT SADHU SAMAJ

The Bharat Sadhu Samaj has been opened to mobilise the numerous *Sadhus* in the country for fighting corruption and raising moral and social standards in the country. One of the recent steps taken in this direction was the organisation of an 85-day character-building tour of the country by the Samaj.

HEALTH

The B.S.S. has laid much stress on the better health and healthier living conditions in the villages. Several thousand villages have so far been visited by the B.S.S. members to stimulate the interest of people in having cleaner surroundings and observing healthy habits.

Delhi Pradesh has evinced a special interest in this direction by starting a Yoga Health Department. By the end of 1957 this department had opened 15 permanent and many temporary Yoga Health Centres, including 2 for M.P.s., one for Ministers and Diplomats and two for ladies.

JAN JAGARAN

At the sixth annual convention of the B.S.S. held at Bhilwara in March 1959, an evaluation of the methods and approach adopted by the organisation hitherto was made. As a result, a new concept of *Lok Karya*, reflecting the new emphasis on the essential character of the work of the Samaj, was evolved. The new programme, which can be described as one 'of the people, by the people and for the people', has the following for its essentials:

(*i*) Integration of all the field work of the Samaj at the village and *Kshetra* level;

(*ii*) Dovetailing of the Samaj's area programmes into the development programmes of Panchayats, Co-operatives and the Community Development Organisation;

(*iii*) Creation of a nucleus of trained workers and local leadership to stimulate co-operative endeavour; and

(*iv*) Priority for increase in food production and setting up of service co-operatives in the work of the *Lok Karya Kshetra*.

FARMER'S SEED FARM

(*Continued from page 9*)

club members. But those who got the seeds should give half of their produce in the next season as seed material to the farmers. And the price of the seed was only Rs. 4 per *para*. In the market you had to pay Rs. 5 or more. Thus the club distributed 1,600 lbs. of the best quality seeds at a cheap rate during this Rabi season.

The entire credit for the success of the new experiment goes to the people's representatives of the area and the Gram Sevak. The inspiration that the Block Development Officer imparted among the block staff played a vital role in the implementation of the scheme.

The seed farm is continuing the multiplication of the seeds in every season. For Kharif P.T.B. 22 was cultivated. Now U.R. 19 is about to be transplanted again. But there is one change. No contribution by the farmers is necessary from this season onwards for running the farm. In other words, 'the farm is self-sufficient" in its finances.

The success of the farmers club has inaugurated a new chapter in the activities of the block. The farmers in the other areas are coming forward with enthusiasm to undertake such co-operative endeavours. The Block is planning for the production of coconut seedlings, pepper cuttings, etc. on above lines. The main objective is to make the farmers of the block area stand on their legs.

WORTHY SON OF THE SOIL

M. Nagesha Bhatt

"THE GARLAND offered to me is more fitting to Shri Sabanna's neck than mine. We talk of growing more food whereas he has already grown and does not talk about it",—it was in these words that Shri K. F. Patil, the then Minister for Food & Agriculture, Mysore State spoke about Shri Sabanna while inaugurating the Rabi campaign last year.

Shri Sabanna of Sokanadgi village in Bagalkot Block in Mysore State was a very poor man with just 12 acres of dry land and 15 mouths to feed out of its meagre produce. As a matter of fact, Bijapur District in which Shri Sabanna's village lay, had been known for its irregular rains and the intermittent famines. Despite the best efforts of the Department of Agriculture and the Development Block very few people had come forward to make use of the Taccavi loans offered by the Government for digging wells and installing pumping sets to ensure regular irrigation supplies.

But Shri Sabanna was one who looked more to the future than to the past. He was a bold man and refused to take his seemingly hopeless economic situation lying down. He resolved to tide over his financial difficulties. As if intuitively, he sensed that the root cause of his extreme poverty lay in not having a well in his small holding. One morning, Shri Sabanna was seen moving towards his fields with a spade in his hands. On reaching his field, he started digging out a well. The other members of his family also lent him a helping hand from time to time. After some time the well,—the future fountain-head of Shri Sabanna's prosperity—was ready.

He took up irrigation first in the two-acre plot which he had earmarked for growing lime. He prepared the ground thoroughly by ploughing and spreading manure. He was too poor to make use of any chemical manure. But he made good use of his Farm Yard manure, which was rich in sheep dung.

With vigilant care and hard labour, Shri Sabanna and his family members looked after their crop. Soon their efforts were richly rewarded. A bumber crop of beautiful and luscious lime stood waving in the field which attracted the attention of every passerby. The crop fetched about Rs. 10,000. Shri Sabanna had found the proverbial hidden treasure of gold in his fields. His pioneering effort paved the way not only for his prosperity but pointed out the "open sessame" to many other farmers in the neighbourhood.

Shri Sabanna cannot be called rich by ordinary standards. But those of the older generation who had seen him and his small children sometimes going to bed without a full meal, now see in him a rich man.

To Shri Sabanna the coming prosperity has meant not so much a rise in the quality of his food and dress, as improvement in the means of production,—the well, the field and the bullock. It were these that brought about his prosperity. As if impelled by a desire to repay his debt to these benefactors of his, he has striven hard to improve these in every possible way. With the help of taccavi loans advanced by the Development block he has purchased a bull of good breed to improve the progeny of bullocks. He has purchased a pumping set and installed it on his well. He is fully exploiting his local manurial resources. He has thus paved for himself the path of his ever-rising prosperity.

Shri Sabanna has become a symbol of progressive development of his village and the block as a whole. His two-acre garden plot has become a place of pilgrimage to many distinguished visitors and State guests. Shri Sabanna knows this and is rightly proud of his achievement. More than anything else, he is proud of his two-acre plot and his two strong shoulders. He has proved himself a worthy son of the soil.

A LETTER FROM UTTAR PRADESH

IT IS NOW accepted on all hands that greater use should be made of Panchayats and their services utilised in implementing development programmes at the village level and that the Panchayats should function as the field unit of development administration. Each department has undertaken to scrutinise carefully the functions that can be transferred to the Panchayats. The Panchayats henceonward would take promotional interest in Co-operatives and utilise the schools for social and cultural development.

'Gaon Sabhas' are to be called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities and entrusted with the implementation of Works of the total value of Rs. 7,500. Such of the 'Gaon Sabhas' as do not possess the necessary resources will be granted loans. Initially a selected few 'Gaon Sabhas' will be entrusted with the implementation of these Works.

AGRICULTURE

The month of September has on the whole gone comparatively dry causing a large scale damage to paddy crops particularly in the major paddy growing eastern districts of the State. Relief measures are being provided by the State in all the scarcity stricken areas. Irrigation rates have been reduced to about half in such areas to induce farmers to irrigate their fields to the extent possible. Although the outlook of paddy crop particularly in eastern districts, is depressing, the other crops in the State are on the whole, better than last year.

COOPERATION

Service cooperatives during the current year would be organised in the areas where co-operative marketing societies have been established. The target for organisation of Marketing Societies has been raised from 30 to 50. Service co-operatives would also be organised in the areas covered by cane marketing unions. 36 cane unions have been selected for setting up *Arhat* shops for marketing of other agricultural produce.

Loans would be advanced by Service co-operatives and not by cane unions and the service co-operatives would be affiliated to these cane unions for marketing purposes. For securing financial accommodation they would be linked with the District Co-operative Banks. Production plans would be drawn up by the Service Co-operatives.

TRAINING

A scheme for the training of Panchayat Secretaries is under way. Under the scheme, it will be possible to give a three months' training in community development and panchayat work to all Panchayat Secretaries within a period of about two years.

PANCHAYAT POND

IN 1956, the Panchayat of Banasandra village in Mayasandra Community Development Block in Mysore State, decided to produce fish from one of its ponds. It approached the Department of Fisheries for technical help and also for supply of fish seed.

The pond selected was in the middle of the village and the water was used mostly for washing clothes and bathing cattle. The rain water flowing in a stream is collected in this pond. The pond is 200 ft. x 100 ft. and 6 ft. to 8 ft. deep. The bottom is rocky with a layer of clay and silt above it. There is very little aquatic vegetation. The water highly alkaline is green in colour with abundant Zoo and Phyto-Plankton.

20 mirror carp fingerlings measuring 3 in. to 4 in. were introduced into the pond. These were allowed to propagate, keeping a strict watch to prevent poaching. No artificial feeding was given to the fish.

The fish grew in the ponds to 1 ft. to 1½ ft. size in a year and a half, and bred during 1957 and 1958. In February, 1959, when the adult fish were harvested the village panchayat was able to raise Rs. 200 from their sale and also supplied 12 big fishes for breeding to a neighbouring village Panchayat. Thus the Banasandra Village Panchayat was able to produce nearly 400 lbs. of fish in a small tank and realised a revenue of Rs. 200. Now the villagers are convinced of the value of fish culture in small ponds, in terms of food production and also as a source of revenue to the village panchayat.

THREE PROGRESSIVE FARMERS

FAITH IN THE modern methods of cultivation and determination to use them even against heavy odds can yield remarkable results. This has been proved by numerous farmers. Here is the story of three of them in different parts of the country.

Harbanslal Gupta was a town dweller who wanted to become a small industrialist but, on second thoughts, turned to farming. The challenge on the food front, he thought, was more urgent.

Gupta had purchased a piece of barren land in the village of Balachak, six miles away from Taran Taran in the Amritsar district of Punjab, with the intention of building a factory on it. He, however, changed his mind. The fact that the 50 acres he had purchased seemed to have hardly any prospects of anything growing on them as they were seriously affected by harmful salt contents did not discourage him. He went to the Block officers for advice which was readily given. Besides, some financial assistance was also extended to him.

He used the money in sinking a tubewell. Having solved the problem of obtaining irrigation water, Gupta applied manure to the fields as advised by the Block officers. This he did by adding well composted farmyard manure to the soil along with well calculated doses of nitrogenous, potassic and phosphatic fertilizers. He also grew green manure crops of *Dhaincha* and clover which were turned under the land while in the green state. The decaying green material helps in the removal of the soluble salts and also reduces their detrimental effects.

The farm was then flooded with water in order to eliminate the injurious effects of white alkali. The top few inches of this "diseased soil" were scraped away from the fields. Later, tons of fertile silt from the adjoining irrigation channels were taken to the farm with the help of tractor and spread over the alkaline soil.

Through these efforts, which started in 1954, Gupta has been able to change the barren piece of land into a well-managed and paying farm. He grows paddy and sugarcane on it. This he does because paddy is alkali-resistant and sugarcane is also fairly tolerant.

The farm is now producing 41 maunds of paddy per acre and the sugarcane yield is expected to be 1,000 maunds per acre.

MORE SUGARCANE

Another farmer who has benefited by adopting modern methods of agricultural production is Chaudhuri Mam Chand of village Mitraon in the Najafgarh Block of Delhi. He is now able to obtain 105 maunds of *gur* from sugarcane grown over an acre of land. This is considered to be very good recovery.

Mam Chand's technique is simple. He ploughed the field 10 to 12 times with a disc tiller followed by planking. Trenches were then dug three feet apart and compost was added at the rate of 35 cartloads per acre. The trenches were then hoed four to five times. Three months later superphosphate at the rate of one maund per acre was mixed well with the soil. Thereafter healthy and disease-free two-budded setts were planted end-to-end four inches deep in the rows. There were 30,000 setts to an acre and they had been presoaked in water to help early sprouting.

One month after planting, the land was given its first irrigation and ammonium sulphate at 2½ maunds per acre was applied. This was followed by 15 to 16 well irrigations at an interval of 10 to 12 days. Timely propping and earthing was done to help the crop maintain its stand.

Mam Chand used the Co. 312 variety of sugarcane which, under Delhi conditions, gives a disease-free crop and *gur* of excellent quality. His labour brought him last season a net profit of Rs. 3,200 from his four-acre crop.

ORCHARD-OWNER

The third man is an orchard owner—K. Palanivelu of Kamayagoundanpatti in Madurai district of Madras

State. With one acre under grapes, he is making a steady income of about Rs. 7,000 per year.

His trick-of-the-trade consists in manuring his vines well. Twenty days before pruning he applies 224 pounds of horn and hoofmeal and after pruning he gives 4 cartloads of sheep manure. Pruning is done twice a year.

To keep the pests away he spreads DDT on the vines soon after pruning. Whenever necessary, Bordeaux mixture is spread to ward off the leaf spot disease.

What is equally important, Palanivelu follows the method of staggered pruning. His vine-yard is divided into four blocks and they are so pruned as to bear fruit at four different times of the year. This serves as an insurance against crop failure. If there is rain at any time, only one block suffers but the other three are saved. Besides, he is able to make more profit from a late crop.

Palanivelu has some shrewd business sense. He grows mainly the *Kishmish* variety. Since its supply depends on imports this variety is in demand and fetches a good price.

339,734 VILLAGES

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Programme, which completed seven years of operation on October 2, 1959, covers over 339,734 villages scattered over 2,552 blocks, with a population of nearly 173 million.

According to reports received from 2,380 blocks, the people's voluntary contribution in the form of cash, kind and labour, from the beginning of the programme up to March 31, 1959, was Rs. 73.89 crores, as against the provisional total Government expenditure of Rs. 137.83 crores, the people's contribution being 54% of the total Government expenditure.

Reports from 2,380 blocks indicate that from the beginning of the programme on October 2, 1952 up to the end of March 1959, 20,516,000 maunds of improved seeds had been distributed. The quantity of chemical fertilizers distributed totalled 47,491,000 mds. Improved implements distributed numbered 1,364,000 and agricultural demonstrations held 6,629,000.

Area brought under green manuring totalled over 5,244,000 acres, while the number of compost pits dug stood at 6,409,000.

In the field of animal husbandry 55,100 improved animals were supplied to the Block people, the number of pedigree birds being 7,93,000. Animals castrated totalled 5,350,000 and those treated numbered 34,603,000.

Progress has also been registered in the field of social education. On March 31, 1959, there were 97,000 adult literacy centres functioning in C.D. areas. The number of adults made literate stood at 3,538,000, the number of reading rooms opened 53,800 and Community Centres started 109,000.

During the same period 100,600 Youth and Farmers Clubs, with a membership of 1,215,000, had been opened, the meetings held numbering 363,000.

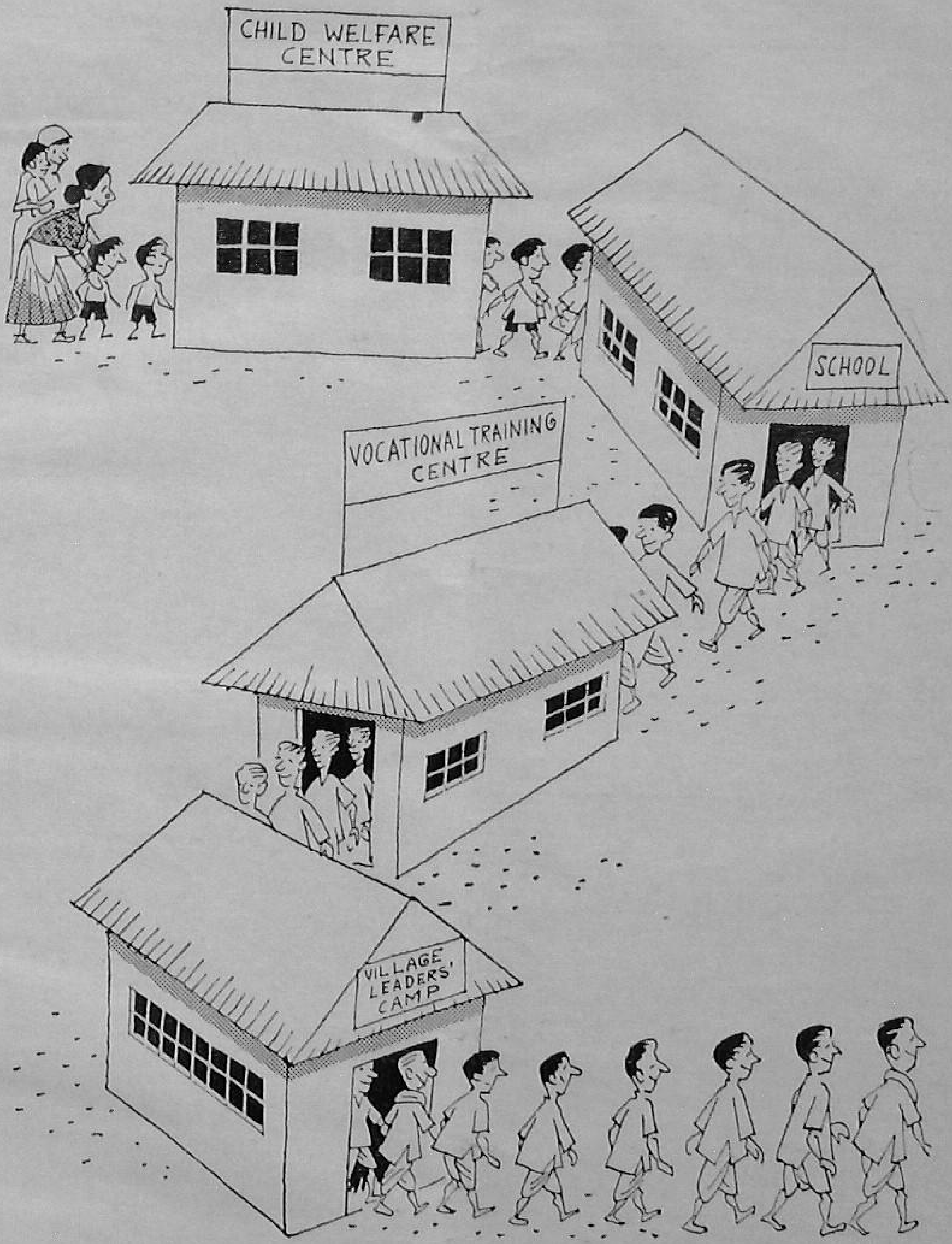
Mahila Samitis formed in the C.D. blocks numbered 24,100, with a total membership of 412,000. Meetings of Mahila Samitis held numbered 145,000.

During the same period 30,362 village camps were held and the number of villagers trained totalled 1,532,000.

During the same period 21,764,000 yards of drains were constructed and 262,100 smokeless chullahs installed. Village lanes paved totalled 9,625,000 sq. yds., while the number of rural latrines in use stood at 466,000.

Drinking water wells constructed during the period numbered 151,000, while those renovated numbered 219,000. Kutcha roads constructed during the same period numbered 93,900 miles, while the existing kutcha roads improved numbered 115,200 miles. Culverts constructed during the same period totalled 63,800.

Community in the making



The making of bricks is a cooperative venture. · No one is too young for making his special contribution.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-8, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development.

egd. No. D—877